

OVERVIEW

Foreign Broadcast Information Service

For the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS), 1982-1989 was a period of unprecedented technological advancement. In line with the growth in the CIA budget and personnel strength during the 1980s, DS&T and FBIS managers undertook a [] program to modernize this service that was established in 1941 to monitor foreign radiobroadcasts. Although the FBIS Modernization Program was conceived prior to the start of Hineman's term as DS&T in 1982, he influenced its scope and development throughout his tenure. A special budget category for the FBIS modernization was maintained from 1985 through 1989, when the program was terminated as Agency resources shrank.

Using processes developed in monitoring Axis broadcasts during World War II, FBIS provided information to official Washington on foreign affairs--texts of foreign leader speeches, military communiques, governmental statements, propaganda claims, news reports, and so on. Until the 1980s, FBIS handled most of this monitored information with the same tools used in the 1940s--typewriters, teletype machines, and pencils. Computers replaced these implements in the FBIS modernization of the 1980s. Automation permitted "paperless" production, in which monitored information was entered once into a computer and then handled electronically.

O/W? - usaf
this one -
bro
checking
figure -
to send
1/13

STAT

The FBIS Modernization Program also involved increased monitoring of foreign media transmissions from satellites. Besides collecting satellite material at its overseas field bureaus, FBIS in 1985 inaugurated a satellite antenna at CIA Headquarters so Agency analysts could view selected foreign television programs.

Modernization also involved FBIS use of satellite communications to transmit monitored material to Washington. Early plans called for satellite communications capability at each of 17 FBIS sites around the world. Because of budgetary and legal problems, however, only the FBIS London Bureau wound up with regularly functioning satellite communications in the 1980s. It was used primarily to relay to CIA and FBIS analysts foreign television programs monitorable in England from satellite broadcasts. A small satellite ground station was erected to receive the relayed programs

STAT

FBIS during the period also expanded its collection of information on foreign science and technology developments. Small units were opened in Japan, Belgium, and Italy to collect S&T information from locally available media. Their sources included commercial data bases, a new field for FBIS. The units forwarded information to a new Science and Technology Center at FBIS Headquarters.

These advances enabled FBIS to provide more information to its consumers throughout the intelligence and foreign affairs communities. The Daily Report, the principal FBIS publication for timely information, in 1989 published about 45 million more words than in 1982. Despite the production increases, however, FBIS at the end of the decade was under pressure to provide even more information due to the geopolitical changes under way in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

The FBIS annual operating budget during Hineman's tenure doubled, from about [redacted]. The size of the FBIS staff grew by [redacted]. Many of the new staffers belonged to Engineering Support Group, established in 1985 to consolidate technical support to the Modernization Program and conventional monitoring activities. [redacted] [redacted] an electrical engineer previously with with Office of Communications, headed the group until the end of the decade.

STAT
STATSTAT
STAT

Much of the visible change in FBIS due to the Modernization Program occurred in the summer of 1987. The FBIS headquarters was moved from Key Building in the Rosslyn section of Arlington, to which it had moved in 1965 from the District of Columbia. The new headquarters site was in [redacted] western Fairfax County. Upon arrival in [redacted] employees began using the Automated FBIS System, the information-handling system supplied by Lockheed Electronics Corp. as the main component of the Modernization Program.

STAT
STAT

Over the course of the modernization effort, Hineman named three new directors of FBIS: [redacted] (1983-1986), [redacted] (1986), and [redacted] (1986-1991). He also named four deputy directors: [redacted] (1983-1984), [redacted] (1984-1986), [redacted] (1986-1988), and [redacted] (1988-1991). One of the two top men at any given time was an FBIS careerist and the other was an experienced manager of technical programs from elsewhere in the directorate.

When Hineman retired in 1989, he left behind an FBIS that was a larger and more productive service of common concern to the U.S. intelligence and foreign affairs communities. It also was more integrated into the DS&T than at any time since its transfer from the Directorate for Intelligence 13 years earlier. Nevertheless, FBIS in 1989 remained different from other DS&T offices in several respects: it dealt primarily, although not exclusively, with unclassified information; it employed mostly liberal arts graduates; and its overseas posts were not under cover, an anomaly in CIA ascribable to the unique history of the monitoring service.

STAT
STAT
STAT
STAT
SIAI
STAT
STAT
STAT
STAT